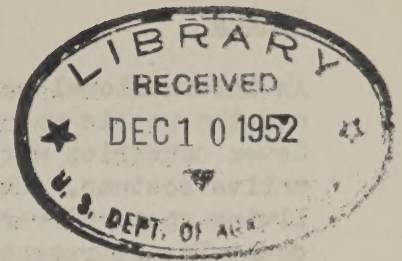


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Extension Service  
Washington 25, D. C.



NATIONAL HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK\*

International Aspects Featured in 1950

Reported by State home demonstration leaders and county-wide home demonstration agents of the 48 States. It is thought that if rural families become acquainted with the traditions, customs, and life of peoples of other lands, they will acquire a better international understanding.

Arkansas

"World Citizenship" was used as a theme for several special county-wide programs. Polish women who came to this country as displaced persons took part in programs with songs and dances. Young German women who were home economics trainees were featured on programs.

California

At county-wide Home Demonstration Days talks were made on international understanding by State extension leaders and on Rural England by English exchange teachers. Illustrated travelogues on "Our South American Neighbors" were given by recent visitors to South America. "Women's Dress Around the World" was featured with garments from many lands being modeled.

Connecticut

Preparation and serving of foods for a Swedish Smorgasbord was a local leader project carried on by 25 groups in one county. The customs and traditions of Sweden were discussed at meetings, as well as Swedish cooking.

Idaho

International Fiesta programs were highlighted in the counties. From 7 to 10 home demonstration clubs planned and conducted the programs in each county, and most of the programs were held in the evening so that whole families could attend. Among the features were talks on China and Japan by women who had lived in those countries, Irish folk songs, Dutch dances, Scottish bagpipes, Swiss yodeling, Hawaiian dances, and illustrated talks on Mexico. One exhibit was set up in which items of 17 foreign countries were displayed. Smorgasbord fashion was the more favorite arrangement for serving dishes prepared from recipes of foreign lands. Foods prepared in Sweden, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Norway, England, Finland, Mexico, and China were included in the menus served at the various International Fiestas.

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\*Summary prepared by Madge J. Reese, Field Agent, Division of Field Coordination.



### Kansas

An international pageant was staged by the home demonstration units in one county, and the public was invited. Foreign war brides were given special recognition. Seven countries were represented in a tableau by women and children dressed in native costume. They stepped from a huge geography book into a typical American living room and were greeted and served tea by two gracious hostesses. The countries represented were Mexico, Holland, Japan, Italy, Hungary, Arabia, and Ireland. Music typical of the various countries accompanied the scenes, being rendered by a county home demonstration chorus, with small group ensembles and solos, and some of the 4-H club members assisted. It was felt that all who attended had a broader and better understanding of our neighbors in other lands.

### Kentucky

At 12 district meetings of the Kentucky Federation of Homemakers, an International Farm Youth Exchange student told of her trip to Denmark.

### Maine

Homemaking in England was presented on county programs by women who had lived in England. Recommendations were made to all counties to use foreign war brides of local veterans on programs.

### Michigan

In one county the rural and urban women held a silver tea for the purpose of raising money for the foreign scholarship fund to be awarded to a professionally trained home economics woman of Germany to study home demonstration work for 6 months. The scholarship was set up by the Michigan Home Demonstration Council. It is to be hoped that when the German visitor is given an opportunity to meet with extension groups to learn how we learn from each other and about our local leader system, she will have a better idea of how American women work together to improve their homes. Several radio programs featured the State home demonstration project, the encouragement of international understanding.

### Nebraska

In one county a tea planned around the theme "Better World Citizenship" publicized some of the activities of the home demonstration clubs. The tea was held at one of the teachers' colleges, and the general public was invited. A talk on "Communism As I Know It" was given by a graduate scholarship student from Latvia. An exhibit of foreign articles belonging to families in the county was on display. A silver tray was placed on the tea table to receive the guests' contributions to the International Children's Emergency Fund.

### North Carolina

An International Youth Exchange student presented her experiences in Norway at several home demonstration and Grange meetings.



Oregon

The Oregon Home Economics Extension Council selected the theme "The World At Our Threshold" for the 1950 National Home Demonstration Week. At the County Homemakers' Festivals skits featuring homemaking in several lands, particularly England, the Philippines, and Germany, were staged.

The following are themes of talks made by foreign-born women or Oregon women who had been recent visitors to foreign countries:

"No one is rich enough to do without a neighbor" (Danish proverb).

Homemaking in Korea.

Our Neighbors South of the Border.

I Saw This in Germany.

Homemakers--Promoters of Good Will.

Women--World-Wide Homemakers.

An International Youth Exchange delegate from Denmark took part in several programs, giving impressions of America and conducting groups in Danish folk dancing.

The unique feature of a luncheon attended by 500 at one of the Homemakers' Festivals was a centerpiece arrangement contest in which 20 home demonstration groups were entered. The Orient was much in evidence in the table centerpieces. Holland, Mexico, Scotland, Ireland, and Hawaii were also featured.

Pennsylvania

The international aspects were highlighted in many counties. Talks were made by women who had gone on tours to Lake Success. War brides gave interesting facts about homemaking in the countries from which they came. They said that they began to feel really at home after attending home demonstration meetings.

Rhode Island

A Folk Day was held in Newport County, featuring the part that the many countries played in the establishment of the Rhode Island home. The program was keyed to "I Am an American Day." The several home demonstration clubs selected themes depicting the arrival of the various nationalities dressed in the costumes of the countries. Following are some of the features staged in the historical pageant: The reading of Longfellow's "Skeleton in Armor" in keeping with the legend of the Vikings' landing; an English character reading; Swiss songs and dances; French ballads; the Virginia reel in honor of Washington's Ball in 1781 at Newport; Negro spirituals; Irish ballads, and a Portuguese skit with a tableau featuring epochs in the history of Newport.

South Dakota

A home economics college student from Germany talked at meetings on "Interpreting Germany to You." The German student is studying at the Agricultural College as a result of the efforts of the South Dakota Home Demonstration Council.

Virginia

Talks were made at a series of district meetings of the Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs on "Our Home, Our Nation, Our World."



### West Virginia

International Day programs were held in clubs and counties throughout the State. The County Farm Women's Council held county meetings at which subjects of international interest were presented and discussed. "Better Living for a Better World" was a theme used for some programs during the week. "Our part in World Peace" was a topic at some of the meetings. A skit, "Ambassadors of Good Will," was put on at a number of meetings.

### Wyoming

Home demonstration clubs featured "Around the World at Teatime" as a special event. Tea tables, sewing classes, and Scandinavian, Spanish, Indian, Irish, and American foods were popular. At these events the music of different countries was featured, including France, England, Ireland, Italy, and Russia, and the music of our West and Hawaii.

Letters from "pen friends" of several countries were read at meetings during the week. An International Youth Exchange delegate to Ireland wrote articles on the life and work of rural women in Ireland, and they were published in a large number of papers during the week.